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Labour Force Statistics Highlights

A release from the Province of British Columbia's central statistical agency

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The **unemployment rate** remained the same at 6.3%.

The **participation rate** increased 0.6 percentage points to 64.3%.

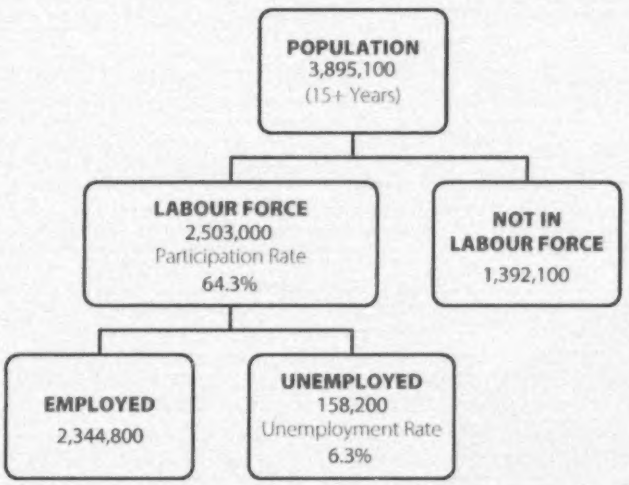
The **employment rate** increased 0.5 percentage points to 60.2%.

B.C. HIGHLIGHTS

In October, employment rose by 23,300 jobs compared to September. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.3% as the increase in employment essentially kept pace with the expanding labour force (+25,300). Year over year, B.C. had the highest growth rate (+3.0%) among the provinces with 67,300 more jobs than October 2014. However, B.C. also experienced the strongest gains in the size of its labour force (+3.2% or +76,700) leaving the unemployment rate 0.2 percentage points higher.

The number of full-time (+11,300) and part-time (+12,000) jobs grew in October. Full-time and part-time employment increased for younger workers aged 15 to 24 (+16,500 and +3,100, respectively) and older workers aged 55 and over (+5,500 and +2,900, respectively). For workers aged 25 to 54, full-time employment fell by 10,700 as part-time employment rose by 6,100.

In October, there were increases in public sector employment (+5,000), private sector employment (+10,700) and in the number of self-employed people (+7,600).



Compared to October 2014, gains in public sector employment (+30,300) were stronger than in private sector employment (+22,900) and the number of self-employed people (+14,100).

B.C. AND WEST

The unemployment rate in B.C. in October ranked 3rd in Canada, behind Manitoba (+5.3%) and Saskatchewan (+5.6%) and ahead of Alberta (+6.6%).

Note: All labour force statistics are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated

NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Nationally, employment increased by 44,400 (+0.2%) in October, bringing the number of people employed in Canada to over 18 million for the first time. The unemployment rate declined for the first time since January 2015 to 7.0% (-0.1percentage points).

GENDER

In October, employment in British Columbia for men (aged 25 years and over) declined by 5,500 jobs. There was a decrease in full-time (-14,000) and an increase in part-time (+8,500) jobs. While employment declined, the labour force grew by 4,200, pushing the unemployment rate up 0.8 percentage points to 5.9%.

For women (aged 25 years and over), employment grew by 9,300 jobs, nearly keeping pace with expansion of the labour force (+9,700), leaving the unemployment rate unchanged at 5.1%. Most of the gains were in full-time employment (+8,800), while part-time employment saw little change (+400).

Compared to October 2014, the unemployment rate rose for men by 0.6 percentage points to 5.9% and for women by 0.2 percentage points to 5.1%. Compared to one year ago, full-time jobs for men strengthened by 37,500 (+4.0%), while part-time jobs weakened by 8,100 (-8.4%). For women there was more moderate growth in full-time employment (+7,900 or +1.1%), while part-time employment (+12,600 or +5.3%) expanded at a quicker pace.

YOUTHS AGED 15 TO 24 YEARS

The unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 years was down by 2.6 percentage points to 10.9% in October, after the recent high in September of 13.5%. A significant bump in employment (+19,600 or 6.3%) outpaced growth in the labour force (+11,500 or 3.2%). Nearly all of the increase in overall youth employment was driven by full-time employment expanding by 16,500 jobs, with part-time jobs increasing by 3,100. Compared to October 2014, the unemployment rate dropped from 12.0% to 10.9% for youth.

CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREAS (CMAs)

In October, employment rose primarily in Vancouver (+25,100 or +1.9%) with some gains in Victoria (+3,200 or +1.8%) and Kelowna (+400 or +0.5%). Employment fell slightly in Abbotsford (-300 or -0.3%), and in the rest of B.C. (-5,100 or -0.8%).

INDUSTRY

In October, employment in the goods-producing sector fell by 6,100 (-1.3%) jobs. Most of the losses were in the construction (-6,000 or -2.9%) and agriculture (-1,600 or -7.2%) industries. Gains in employment were posted in forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (+1,100, or +2.3%) and utilities (+1,000 or +7.4%). Compared to October 2014, the goods-producing sector has gained 19,500 (+4.4%) jobs.

After two months of losses, employment in the services-producing sector (+29,500 or +1.6%) increased significantly in October. Employment rose across a number of industries, including health care and social assistance (+6,900 or +2.3%), professional, scientific and technical services (+5,200 or +2.8%), wholesale and retail trade (+3,900 or +1.1%), other services (+3,500 or +3.4%) and public administration (+3,400 or +3.5%). The only services-producing industry posting a decline in employment was business, building and other support services (-100 or -0.1%), while employment in educational

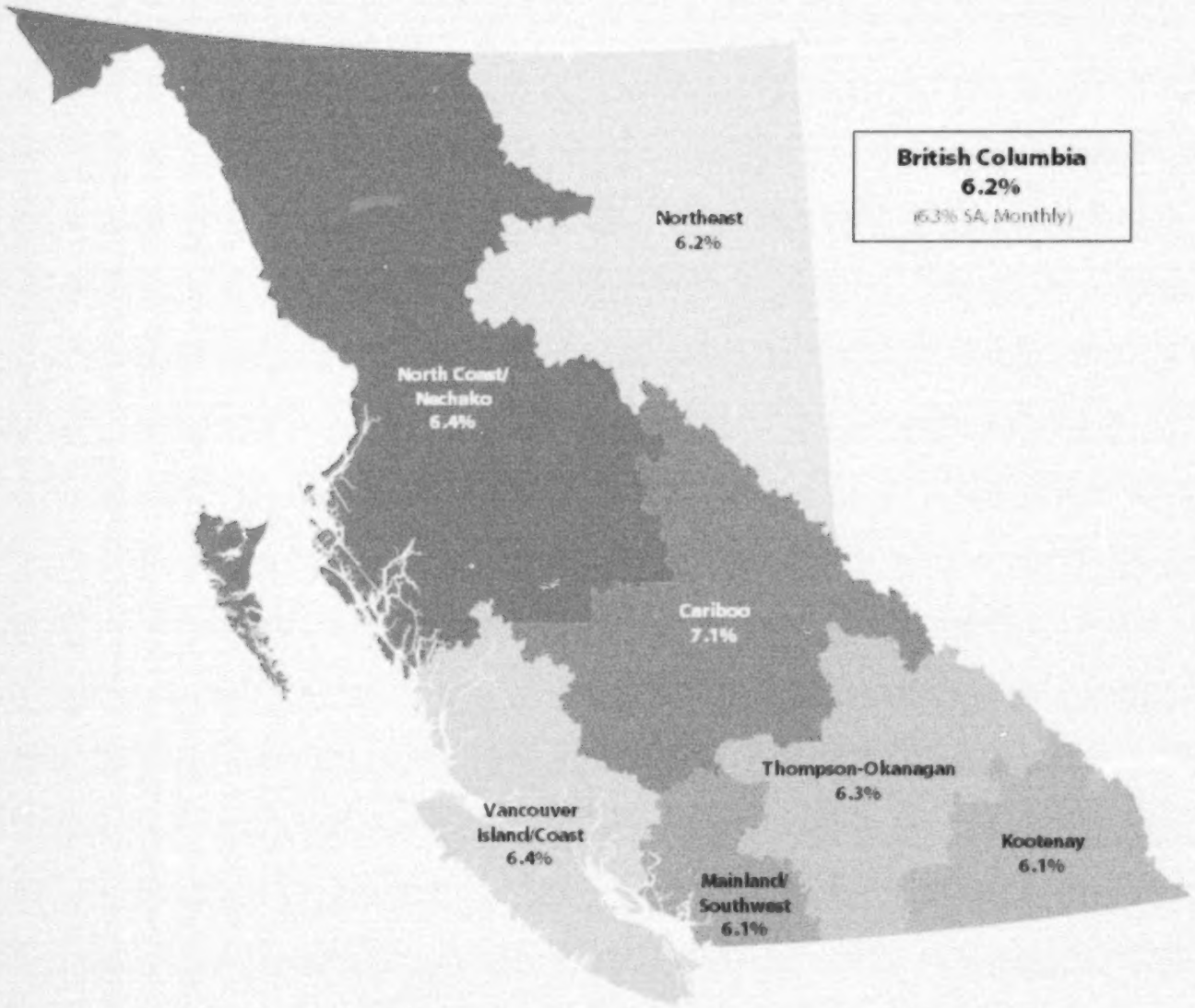
services was stable. The services-producing sector has expanded by 47,800 (+2.6%) jobs since October 2014.

Click here to visit the Labour Force Statistics page on the BC Stats website.

DID YOU KNOW?

Elections Canada hired more than 230,000 election workers to deliver the 42nd general election on October 19th, with advanced polling from October 9th to 12th. The reference week for the Labour Force Survey in October was from the 11th to the 17th.

British Columbia Unemployment Rates
October 2015
Unadjusted, 3 Month Moving Average



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey